

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA  
DECEMBER 18, 2013**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Jasper, Indiana, was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2013, in the Council Chambers of City Hall located at 610 Main Street, Jasper, Indiana.

**Call to Order.** Presiding Officer Mayor Terry Seitz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call.**

Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm called the roll.

Mayor Terry Seitz	Present
Council members:	
Gregory Schnarr	Present
David Prechtel	Present
Thomas Schmidt	Present
Earl Schmitt	Present
Kevin Manley	Present
Randall Buchta	Present
Raymond Howard	Present
City Attorney Renee Kabrick	Present
Clerk-Treasurer Juanita S. Boehm	Present

Clerk-Treasurer Boehm announced that in order to have a quorum for the meeting, a majority of the council members must be in attendance. All seven council members were in attendance; therefore, there was a quorum for the meeting.

**Pledge of Allegiance.** Mayor Seitz invited all those present to join him in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Minutes.**

The following minutes were distributed to and examined by the Council:

1. November 20, 2013 regular common council meeting

Thereafter, a **motion** was made by Council member David Prechtel and seconded by Council member Thomas Schmidt to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

**Public hearing.** Mayor Seitz then opened the public hearing regarding the petition of Nicholas L. Wollenmann to vacate a portion of a public utility and drainage easement on Lot 120 of Golden Acres IV.

A notice of the public hearing appeared in the Herald on December 6, 2013 and was posted at city hall.

Phil Buehler with Brosmer Land Surveying was present along with Nicholas Wollenmann. Buehler said Wollenmann wants to vacate the south 10 ft of a 20 ft easement that is located on the north side of his lot at 398 Gardenia Lane. Buehler showed an aerial map of the area. The lot contains an existing house with a deck and the deck is 4.5 ft. into the easement. Buehler said the deck was already there when Wollenmann purchased the property. Wollenmann wants to remove the deck and put an addition onto the house comparable in size and location of the deck. Buehler added that the addition onto the house would be about 7 ft into the current easement.

There are no utilities in that portion of the easement but there is a storm sewer in the northwest part of the property. Council member Ray Howard asked if the remaining 10 ft of that easement would give the City enough room if it needs to access that easement. Mayor Seitz said the civil city has concerns and is opposed to the vacation. City Engineer Chad Hurm said with the potential for future development to the north and potential need for repairs or installation of storm sewers along the north boundary of Golden Acres, he does not recommend reducing the existing 20 ft. easement to 10 feet.

The city attorney then read the comments submitted by the department heads. The street department did not recommend this proposed vacation because there is a concern that any future development to the north may require the full 20 ft. easement. There is an existing storm sewer and catch basin in this easement that drains surrounding properties. This storm sewer and catch basin requires frequent cleaning and removal of wood debris from the adjoining woods. During the review of this request it appears that the current easement is overgrown with trees and vegetation as well as sheds and other manmade encroachments within the easement making the need for the 20 ft. easement even more crucial. The street department also commented that they found it difficult to properly review this vacation request without the easement, property lines, and the owner's intentions being marked and staked.

The storm water coordinator wrote that there is a storm water box near the back property line. Suck holes around the box are causing erosion. At some point the City will need to work on this box. If the City vacates this easement he does not believe there will be a good way to get equipment to the box.

Council member Randall Buchta asked if the proposed addition could be staked off thus giving the City a better idea of its location. Council member Ray Howard asked if the addition could be moved to the south and out of the easement. Council member David Prechtel added that it is hard to go against the departments that have some major concerns.

Mayor Seitz asked if there were any public comments. No comments were received from the public.

There being no further comments a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.

**Consider petition.** After the public hearing closed, a motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to table the petition submitted by Mr. Wollenmann until the January meeting to see if there is any more information Mr. Wollenmann can provide. Motion carried 7-0.

**Utility Service Board.** General Manager of Utilities Gerald ‘Bud’ Hauersperger gave a report on the regular monthly Utility Service Board meeting held on December 16, 2013. Copies of the minutes are supplied to each council member.

**Gas license application.** Mayor Seitz asked the council to consider a gas license application submitted by Michael Gudorf with Gudorf Supply Company. Mr. Gudorf scored a 94% on the test and answered all of the mandatory questions accurately.

A motion was made by Council member Ray Howard and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to approve the gas license application submitted by Michael Gudorf. Motion carried 7-0.

**Gas license application.** Mayor Seitz asked the council to consider a gas license application submitted by Adam Steckler with Bettag Plumbing and Heating Inc. Mr. Steckler scored a 94% on the test and answered all of the mandatory questions accurately.

A motion was made by Council member Earl Schmitt and seconded by Council member David Prechtel to approve the gas license application submitted by Adam Steckler. Motion carried 7-0.

**Council appoints members to various boards.** A motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to appoint Michael Jones and Sherry Monesmith to the Jasper Community Arts Commission for a term of four years, and to appoint Ray Howard and John Schroeder to the Jasper Redevelopment Commission for a term of one year. Motion carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-38 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2002-54 ENTITLED “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE JASPER DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION”**

This ordinance increases golf course green fees, golf cart rental fees, fee for swimming pool coupon booklets, Habig Center banquet room rent and damage deposit, the pre-school camp fee, volleyball league fees, and train fees—effective January 1, 2014.

This ordinance replaces and repeals Ordinance No. 2013-36 that was adopted November 20, 2013. The revised train fees were recommended by the Board of Public Works and Safety.

A motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member Ray Howard to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Gregory Schnarr to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Ray Howard to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2013-38. Motion carried 7-0.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-39 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 805 OF THE CITY OF JASPER, INDIANA, ENTITLED AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE JASPER COMMUNITY ARTS COMMISSION**

This ordinance allows the sale of alcohol at the Jasper Arts Center.

A motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Earl Schmitt to consider the ordinance for one reading only. Motion carried 7-0. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Gregory Schnarr and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to read the ordinance by title only. Motion carried 7-0. The city attorney so read the ordinance. Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Randall Buchta and seconded by Council member Kevin Manley to pass and adopt Ordinance No. 2013-39. Motion carried 7-0.

**Amend comprehensive plan/Resolution No. 2013-9.** Mayor Seitz said the Jasper Plan Commission approved adopting the amendment to the comprehensive plan to incorporate the downtown and riverfront master plan and they certified approval of the Plan to the Common Council. A notice of intent for the council to consider this proposal was faxed to the news media and posted at city hall. Mayor Seitz then asked the Council to consider the City of Jasper's proposal to amend the comprehensive plan.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Council member Kevin Manley and seconded by Council member Gregory Schnarr to adopt the resolution approving the amendment to the comprehensive plan and reference the resolution, Resolution No. 2013-9. Motion carried 7-0.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Council member Thomas Schmidt and seconded by Council member Randall Buchta to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 7-0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

The minutes were hereby approved \_\_\_\_\_ with   X   without corrections or clarification this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of January, 2014.

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**Mayor Terry Seitz**  
**Presiding Officer**

**Attest:** 

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**Juanita S. Boehm, Clerk-Treasurer**